

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

New Paragraph [0020-1] has been added after Paragraph [0020]:

[0020-1] FIG. 3a shows a cross-section through an alternative plate-shaped element of the keeping-ready device depicted in FIG. 3 in combination with a plurality of bone screws and removal instruments for the bone screws.

Paragraph [0029] has been rewritten as follows:

[0029] As can be seen from FIG. 3, the arrangement of the bone screws 24 as countersunk in relation to the surface 20 of the plate 12 has the advantage that the wall areas of the through orifices 22 above the heads of the bone screws 24 have a guiding function for the screw driver blades 26 when the screw driver blades 26 are inserted into the orifices 22 for the purpose of removing the bone screws 24. This guiding function is still reliably fulfilled if the diameter of the pick-up end of one of the screw driver blades 26 is considerably smaller than the maximum diameter of the through orifice 22. In the case illustrated in FIG. 3 this is due in particular to the fact that the orifice cross-section of the wall of the through orifice 22 is reduced in steps and therefore has a ~~centering~~ centering function in the direction of the head of the bone screw to be picked up for the two left screw driver blades in FIG. 3 with the smaller dimensioned pick-up end. As can be seen from FIG. 3a, an alternative version of the keeping-ready device 10 is shown, wherein first and second plates 12, 12a, respectively, are shown. In this view, the first plate 12 is parallel to the second plate 12a. The second plate 12a is preferably distanced from the first plate 12 to such an extent that the bone screws 24 are kept ready by the keeping-ready device 10, e.g. with their heads or tips lying on the second plate 12a.